

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12

AID-20 IO-12 DPW-01 RSR-01 /115 W
----- 089903

R 171200 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3640
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2955

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, LA

SUBJECT: PRIME MINISTER' S LAO NEW YEAR MESSAGE:
PREDICTION OF: HOPE AND APPEAL FOR NATIONAL
PATRIOTISM

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

BEGIN SUMMARY: PRIMIN LAO NEW YEAR MESSAGE, BROADCAST
APRIL 13, EMPHASIZED HOPEFUL PROSPECTS OPENED BY
CEASEFIRE AND CURRENT TALKS WITH LPF; UNDERScored
CONVICTION THAT FRAGILE PEACE MUST BE GUARDED; AND
APPEALED TO LPF NATIONAL PATRIOTISM. PRIMIN ALSO
URGED COUNTRYMEN TO TURN ATTENTIONS TOWARD NEXT
ELECTIONS, WHICH WILL POSE CHOICE BETWEEN TOTALITARIAN
AND LIBERAL POLITICAL SYSTEMS. END SUMMARY.

1. PRIMIN, IN HIS MESSAGE FOR LAO NEW YEAR, BORADCAST
APRIL 13, WAS HOPEFUL, CONCILIATORY, AND FREQUENTLY
PHILOSOPHIC. HE DESCRIBED NEW YEAR AS A " YEAR OF HOPE"
AND URGED ALL LAO TO SHIFT ATTENTIONS FROM COMBAT TO
PREPARATIONS FOR COMING ELECTIONS. PRIMIN OBSERVED THAT
AFTER ALL PAIN AND ORDEAL OF COMBAT AGAINST FOREIGN
AGGRESSORS AND AMONG LAO THEMSELVES, A CEASEFIRE HAS
FINALLY BEEN ACHIEVED AND THAT POLITICAL TALKS WITH
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THE LPF ARE IN PROGRESS. WHILE ACKNOWLEDGING THAT SPORADIC FIGHTING STILL PERSISTS, PRINCIPALLY AGAINST NORTH VIETNAMESE TROOPS, AND THAT POLITICAL TALKS WITH LPF HAVE RUN INTO DIFFICULTIES, PRIMIN ASSERTED: " THE THREAD WHICH LEADS THE LAO TO PEACE, HOWEVER TENUOUS IT MAY BE,BU DHABI NEGOTIATORS APPARENTLY RECOMMENDED TO ZAYID BY SOME OF FELLOW RULERS, WHO EAGER NORMALIZE RELATIONS WITH SAUDIS AND SEE EFFECTIVE WAY OF CREATING BEST POSSIBLE CLIMATE FOR TALKS IS BY NEUTRALIZING POTENTIALLY HARD- LINE ABU DHABI ELEMENT.

3. OTAIBA SAID ZAYID FIRST HAD SUGGESTED BAHRAIN AS VENUE FOR TALKS, BUT WHEN SAUDIS RELUCTANT, HE INFORMED FAISAL THAT HE PREPARED SEND HIS REPS ANY PLACE KING DECIDED. FAISAL REPLIED WITH MSG PROPOSING DAMMAM AND AGREEMENT REACHED IN PAST WEEK OR SO FOR RESPECTIVE COMMITTEES COMMENCE TALKS THERE APRIL 28.

4. COMMENTED TO OTAIBA THAT IT HAS OFTEN OCCURRED TO ME AND SOME OF MY COLLEAGUES IN AREA THAT GOOD PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL RAPPORT BUILT UP OVER PAST FEW YRS BETWEEN HIMSELF AND YAMANI MIGHT BE USEFULLY TAPPED TO CREATE PROPER ATMOSPHERE FOR FRANK, REALISTIC EXCHANGE ON BORDER PROBLEM BETWEEN PARTIES AT WORKING- LEVEL. HOPEFULLY, SUCH CONTACTS WOULD PAVE THE WAY FOR EVENTUAL MTG BETWEEN ZAYID AND KING AT WHICH EQUITABLE BORDER SETTLEMENT COULD BE FINALIZED. OTAIBA SAID SCENARIO MUCH ALONG THIS LINE HAS DEVELOPED TO DATE. HE AND YAMANI HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING VARIOUS ASPECTS OF TERRITORIAL DISPUTE OVER LAST SIX MONTHS AND HAD ACHIEVED FAIR DEGREE OF UNDERSTANDING. BOTH MINISTERS APPARENTLY THEN PERSUADED THEIR LEADERS THAT THEY BE GIVEN CHANCE PROBE FURTHER ON OFFICIAL COMMITTEE LEVEL. ACC OTAIBA, UAE WORKING COMMITTEE HE HEADS WILL REPORT RESULTS INITIAL CONTACTS WITH SAG TO ALL- ABU DHABI COMM ESTABLISHED RECENTLY (REFTEL), WHICH COMPRISES INTER ALIA FM SUWAIDI AND SOME OUTSIDE ADVISORS (UK AMB FOR ONE). OTAIBA SAID HE WELCOMES OPPORTUNITY TACKLE THIS VEXATIOUS PROBLEM WITH MAN OF SUCH OUTSTANDING ABILITY, JUDGEMENT, AND MODERATION AS YAMANI, WHO KNOWN TO ENJOY FULL CONFIDENCE OF FAISAL. OTAIBA ALSO CLAIMED BE CLOSE FRIEND OF SAUDI AMB TO UK.

5. RESPONDING MY STATEMENT THAT USG VERY PLEASED LEARN LONG
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SOUGHT DIALOGUE WILL SOON BEGIN AND WE READY DO ALL POSSIBLE

FACILITATE DIRECT UAE/ SAUDI CONTACTS, OTAIBA SAID UAE DOES NOT
EXPECT USG BECOME DIRECTLY INVOLVED THIS DISPUTE, BUT GRATIFIED
TO KNOW US ON SIDELINES SHOUTING ENCOURAGEMENT TO BOTH FRIENDS.

6. WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INFO JIDDA OR DHAHRAN MAY HAVE DEVELOPED
ON FORTHCOMING MTG IN DAMMAM.

REQUEST JIDDA POUCH COPY ABU DHABI 326 TO DHAHRAN FOR
BACKGROUND.

GRIFFIN

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